Scancell

COVIDITY programme to start Phase I in H221

22 June 2021

- Scancell has announced details of its planned Phase I clinical study for its COVIDITY second generation COVID-19 vaccine programme. Two lead bivalent vaccine candidates, known as SCOV1 and SCOV2, will be studied in trials in both South Africa and the UK. Subject to local swift regulatory approvals the studies are expected to start in H221.
- Following the company's application to SAHPRA (South African Health Products Regulatory Authority), the first part of the trial will be performed at the University of Cape Town Lung Institute on COVID-19-naïve unvaccinated, healthy adult volunteers (this cannot be done in the UK due to the success of the vaccination programme there). The two vaccine candidates will be studied in two different dose levels employing two separate needle-free injection formulations. The primary objective is assessing the safety and immunogenicity of SCOV1 and SCOV2, with levels of virus-neutralising antibodies (VNAbs) of key importance.
- The second part is subject to Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) approval based on results from Part 1. This will evaluate SCOV2 in healthy volunteers who have received two doses of any currently approved vaccine. The objective is to assess the level of immune response against current and potential future SARS-Cov-2 variants of concern (VoC).
- COVIDITY is a second-generation vaccine programme based on a modification of Scancell's ImmunoBody DNA vaccine technology. Unlike currently approved vaccines it targets both the N and S viral antigens. Recently published preclinical data shows strong pro-inflammatory T-cell responses to both the N and S proteins, with these responses being significantly enhanced by fusing the nucleocapsid sequence to a modified Fc utilising the company's AvidiMab technology.
- COVIDITY is a collaboration between Scancell, the Centre for Research on Global Virus Infections and the Biodiscovery Institute at the University of Nottingham, and Nottingham Trent University. The programme receives funding from Innovate UK.

Trinity Delta view: Scancell is well funded to deliver on the undoubted potential of its three novel inter-related technology platforms: ImmunoBody, Moditope, and AvidiMab. Although the COVIDITY programme provides a high visibility showcase, we see a greater, longer-term, value in their applicability as treatments for many types of solid tumours. For example, ImmunoBody vaccines target dendritic cells and, importantly, stimulate both CD4 and CD8 T cells. These cancer vaccines can used as monotherapy or in combinations, with, say, checkpoint inhibitors.

Price	21.25p
Market Cap	£175m
Primary exchange	AIM
Sector	Healthcare
Company Codes	SCLP.L
Corporate client	Yes

Company description:

Scancell is a clinical-stage immuno-oncology specialist that has three technology platforms. Two flexible therapeutic vaccine platforms are progressing through development. ImmunoBody and Moditope induce high avidity cytotoxic CD8 and CD4 responses, respectively, with the potential to treat various cancers.

Analysts

Lala Gregorek
lgregorek@trinitydelta.org
+44 (0) 20 3637 5043

Franc Gregori
fgregori@trinitydelta.org
+44 (0) 20 3637 5041

Lala Gregorek lgregorek@trinitydelta.org
+44 (0) 20 3637 5043

Franc Gregori fgregori@trinitydelta.org
+44 (0) 20 3637 5041

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